

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-23, 29 and 31-38 were pending in the application. Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 3-23, 29, 31, 33, 34, 39 and 40 will be presented for consideration, claims 32 and 35-38 having been canceled in this paper and claims 39 and 40 having been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1, 3-22, 29, 31, 33 and 34 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,259,990 ("Shojima").

Claim 1, as now amended, is directed to a "method for providing directions", which includes "receiving at a server from at least one fixed wireless communication device information identifying a current location of a portable communication device having short range wireless communication capability". Claim 1 further recites that "the at least one fixed wireless communication device [is] located within a building". The method recited in claim 1 further includes "identifying a direction of movement to be communicated to the portable communication device to direct it towards a destination within the building" and "transmitting the direction of movement to the portable communication device from the server via a fixed wireless communication device".

It is noted that the present amendments to claim 1 include specifying that the receiving of information identifying a current location of the portable communication device is "at a server from at least one fixed wireless communication device". Support for this amendment is found at page 17, lines 6-17 of the specification.

The present amendments to claim 1 further specify that "the at least one fixed wireless communication device is located within a building". Support for this amendment is found at page 12, lines 4-7 of the specification.

The present amendments to claim 1 further specify that the portable communication device is directed toward a destination "in the building" (i.e., the destination to which the portable communication device is directed is within the same building within which the at least one fixed wireless communication device is located). Support for this amendment is found at page 17, line 20 to page 18, line 3 of the specification and in FIG. 1 of the present application.

Finally, the present amendments to claim 1 specify that the transmitting of the direction of movement to the portable communication device is "from the server via a fixed wireless communication device". Support for this amendment is found at page 17, lines 13-20 of the specification.

It is noted that the Shojima reference fails to disclose the "at least one fixed wireless communication device", now recited in claim 1, by which information concerning the location of a portable communication is transmitted to a server, to allow the portable communication device to be directed to a location in a building in which the at least one fixed wireless communication device is located. At column 3, lines 30-37, the reference discloses a portable communication device 2 which sends its current location to an "information providing apparatus 1" in order to receive back from the apparatus 1 route information. However, the reference does not indicate how the communication between the portable communication device 2 and the apparatus 1 takes place, and does not indicate that such communication may be via at least one fixed wireless communication device located in a building which also contains the destination to which the portable communication device is to be directed. It is noted that the installation markers 3 described in Shojima cannot satisfy the at least one fixed wireless communication device recited in claim 1, since the installation markers 3 only send out locating beams to the portable devices 2, and do not transmit information from the portable devices 2 to a server such as the apparatus 1.

It is therefore submitted that claim 1, as now amended, is patentable over the Shojima reference.

Claims 3-22 are all dependent on claim 1, and are submitted as patentable on the same basis as claim 1.

In addition, it is noted that claim 6 recites the additional limitation of “defining a piconet using multiple transceivers”. In explaining the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner merely referred to Fig. 2 of the Shojima reference. However, Fig. 2 of the reference is a block diagram of the “stationary route computation and information providing apparatus” 1 (akin to a server), and has nothing to do with a “piconet” as recited in claim 6. Neither does the reference otherwise disclose a piconet. It is therefore submitted that claim 6 is patentable on grounds independent of claim 1.

Claim 29 has now been amended so as to be similar in scope to former claim 32. In explaining the rejection of former claim 32, the Examiner stated that the claim was “interpreted and rejected as set forth” relative to claim 6. However, as noted above, the rejection of claim 6 is flawed, in that the reference fails to disclose a “piconet” as recited in both claim 6 and (as now amended) claim 29. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 29 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 31 and 34 are dependent on claim 29 and are submitted as patentable on the same basis as claim 29.

Claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form but is substantially unchanged in scope. It is noted that the present Office Action indicates that claim 33 is rejected as allegedly anticipated by the Shojima reference, but the Office Action fails to contain any specific rationale for the rejection of claim 33. Moreover, claim 33 recites a “scatternet”, which is not disclosed in the reference. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 33 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 23 is rejected as being unpatentable over Shojima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,418,372 (“Hofmann”).

Claim 23 is dependent on claim 1 and is submitted as patentable on the same basis as claim 1. It is not believed that the secondary reference Hofmann raises any issues that need to be discussed in view of the above-noted amendments to claim 1.

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New claim 39 is directed to a "method for providing direction" which includes "determining a current location of a portable communication device based on presence of the portable communication device within a reception range of a fixed wireless communication transceiver", "receiving information identifying the current location of the portable communication device", "identifying a direction of movement to be communicated to the portable communication device to direct it towards a destination" and "transmitting the direction of movement to the portable communication device".

Support for the feature of determining a current location of a portable communication device based on presence of the portable communication device within a reception range of a fixed wireless communication transceiver" is found at page 13, lines 4-18 of the specification. Other limitations of claim 39 are supported at least by claims 1 and 2 as originally presented in the application as filed.

It is noted that the prior art fails to teach or suggest a system in which the location of a portable communication device is determined based on presence of the portable communication device within a reception range of a fixed wireless communication transceiver, and then receiving information identifying the current location, identifying a direction of movement and transmitting the direction of movement to the portable communication device. The pedestrian guidance systems of the Shojima and Hofmann references are quite different from the guidance method recited in claim 19, as well as being quite different from each other, and the teachings of these references could not properly be combined to arrive at the method recited in claim 39.

New claim 40 is dependent on claim 39 and is believed patentable for the same reasons given in regard to claim 39. It is noted that the limitations recited in claim 40 are also present in


claim 1 as now presented, and that support for such limitations was pointed out in discussing the amendments to claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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